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PTO/SB/05 (12/97)

Approved for use through 09/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	MITT-CON	Total Pages
First Named Inventor or Application Identifier		
Kendrick Rampersad		
Express Mail Label No.	EG092471105US	

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)

2. Specification [Total Pages 23]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

3. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 5]

4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 28]

- a. Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
- i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a
copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b,
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by
reference therein.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)

- a. Computer Readable Copy
- b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))

9. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)

10. English Translation Document (if applicable)

11. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS
Citations

12. Preliminary Amendment

13. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)

14. Small Entity Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired

15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)

16. Other: formal drawings
(5 sheets)
.....
.....

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information: Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No: 09 / 235,687

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Customer Number or Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or Correspondence address below

NAME	Alfred M. Walker 225 Old Country Road Melville, NY 11747				
ADDRESS					
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE			
COUNTRY	USA	TELEPHONE	631-361-8737	FAX	631-361-8792

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

FEE TRANSMITTAL

Patent fees are subject to annual revision on October 1.

These are the fees effective October 1, 1997.

Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 345)

Complete If Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Kendrick Rampersad
Examiner Name	Son T. Nguyen
Group / Art Unit	3643
Attorney Docket No.	MITT-CON

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:

Deposit Account Number 23-0120
 Deposit Account Name Alfred M. Walker

Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance

2. Payment Enclosed:
 Check Money Order Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)		
101 790	201 395	Utility filing fee	345		
106 330	206 185	Design filing fee			
107 540	207 270	Plant filing fee			
108 790	208 395	Reissue filing fee			
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee			
SUBTOTAL (1)		(\$)	345		

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
17	-20** = 0	0	0
Independent Claims 3	-3** = 0	0	0
Multiple Dependent		0	0

** or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see below

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)		
103 22	203 11	Claims in excess of 20			
102 82	202 41	Independent claims in excess of 3			
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid			
109 82	209 41	** Reissue independent claims over original patent			
110 22	210 11	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent			
SUBTOTAL (2)		(\$)	0		

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath			
127 60	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet			
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification			
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for reexamination			
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action			
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action			
115 110	216 55	Extension for reply within first month			
116 400	216 200	Extension for reply within second month			
117 960	217 475	Extension for reply within third month			
118 1,510	218 755	Extension for reply within fourth month			
128 2,060	228 1,030	Extension for reply within fifth month			
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal			
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal			
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing			
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to Institute a public use proceeding			
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable			
141 1,320	241 660	Petition to revive - unintentional			
142 1,320	242 660	Utility issue fee (or reissue)			
143 450	243 225	Design issue fee			
144 670	244 335	Plant issue fee			
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner			
123 60	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications			
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt			
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)			
146 790	246 395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))			
149 790	249 395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))			
Other fee (specify)					
Other fee (specify)					
SUBTOTAL (3)		(\$)	0		

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0)

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name	Alfred M. Walker	Complete (If applicable)
Signature		Reg. Number 29,983 Deposit Account User-ID 23-0120

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APPLICANT/PATENTEE: Kendrick Rampersad

SERIAL NO./PATENT NO.: To be assigned

FILED OR ISSUED: To be assigned

FOR: PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR AND MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE PATTERNS

COPY

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)) INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR AND MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE PATTERNS the application which is filed herewith:

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

FULL NAME: Kowsillia Rampersad

ADDRESS: 26 Ardmore Drive Brentwood, NY 11717

(INDIVIDUAL) (SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN) (NON-PROFIT ORGANIZ.)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in the loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein on my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like

so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

DATE: 1/20/99

VSTM7sole.doc

Kenrick Rampersad
KENRICK RAMPERSAD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Rampersad, K.
Serial. No. : To be assigned
Filed : August 27, 2000
For : PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR
AND MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE
PATTERNS
Group Art Unit : 3643
Examiner : Son T. Nguyen

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Amendments
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above
entitled application, please amend the application as
follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please cancel the pending informal drawings and file
the enclosed Formal Drawing Figures 1-7.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

After the title, on page one insert:

--This application is a continuation of application
serial no. 09/235,687, filed January 22, 1999, which
application is not abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5, 12, 16-23 and 28-34.

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15 and 24-27 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal [such as a dog, said mitt having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface], said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand [therethrough] into said body and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom,

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid from, said reservoir extending within said [mitt] body from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said [mitt] body, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of [said palm side of] said mitt;

said mitt having a predetermined denser pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said mitt and

said dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said mitt.

2. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

3. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said mitt building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

4. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said mitt is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said mitt.

6. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an

integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

7. (Amended) The mitt as in Claim [5] 1 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

8. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said mitt is molded of rubber.

9. (Amended) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal [such as a dog, said mitt having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface], said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible front palm side cleaning work surface with an open end for insertion of a hand [therethrough] into said body and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom;

a built-in fluid-retaining reservoir for discharging fluid therefrom, [efficient pet grooming,] said reservoir extending within said [mitt] body from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said [mitt] body, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said mitt; and

said mitt having a predetermined pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs.

10. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

11. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

13. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

14. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 13 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

15. (Unchanged) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt is molded of rubber.

24. (Amended) A grooming and washing brush for a pet animal [such as a dog, said brush having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface], said brush comprising:

a flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible front palm side cleaning work surface and at least one strap for insertion of a hand therein located adjacent said rear side on the opposite side from said front palm side;

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir between said rear and front palm sides for discharging fluid from[,] said reservoir extending within said brush from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said brush;

said brush having a predetermined denser pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said brush; and

said dense pattern of nibs limited to and extending medially along a mid-line of said brush.

25. (Unchanged) The brush as in Claim 24 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept

essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said brush is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said brush building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

26. (Unchanged) The brush as in Claim 24 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said brush is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said brush.

27. (Unchanged) The brush as in Claim 1 wherein said brush further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.--

REMARKS

Applicant submits the within preliminary Amendment, which amends the specification to correct

No new matter is introduced to the specification by the foregoing amendment.

Prior to an examination on the merits, please enter the foregoing preliminary amendment.

Applicant has produced a novel mitten for cleaning pet animals. The mitten is simple and effective and incorporates features as described above not found or suggested in the art of record.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the remaining claims in their amended form are drawn to allowable subject matter, and these claims should accordingly be allowed.

Since after this Preliminary Amendment there are 17 Claims pending, including 3 independent claims, the filing fee for this continuation is \$345.00.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: August 29, 2000

PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR
AND MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE PATTERNS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to hand-worn tools for cleansing and grooming pet animals.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The grooming and washing of a pet such as a dog usually involves the use of several implements such as sponges, brushes, shampoo bottles and so forth. In addition, implements with rigid handles can often cause pain or injury to a squirming animal. The use of a glove, a mitten or other hand held device expressly 15 designed for the purpose can simplify the process.

The prior art reveals several inventions that are related to the pet grooming or allied processes using such devices.

20 Davis, U.S. patent no. 5,169,251 relates to a hand-worn dispenser in the form of a thin-walled glove with a self-contained receptacle for storing dry or liquid material to be dispensed by squeezing. Having conduits extending from the reservoir along the fingers, sealed distal ends are severable to vary the material discharge rates.

25 Damm, U.S. patent no. 5,009,195 reveals an animal grooming device that is a pad attached to a wide strap which folds over and attaches around the palm of a hand. The pad has hook shaped bristles that are effective in controlling shedding of hairs on

animal coats of longhaired dogs or cats.

Moore, U.S. patent no. 5,441,335 describes a scrubber device with a waterproof mitt. This is a cleaning device for protecting the hand and providing a bonded cleaning media such as a sponge or abrasive pad covering the palm and finger area. A reservoir for liquid, powder or paste material is located at the wrist dispensing via conduits into the palm pad.

Zielinski, U.S. patent no. 4,893,955 involves a therapeutic scrubbing mitten for cleansing the scalp of an infant. It is adapted for cleaning and rinsing with one hand while holding the infant with the other. A reservoir in the palm portion with a slit type seal for filling or emptying can be filled with rinsing water. Soft bristles facilitate scrubbing.

Wolgamuth, U.S. patent no. 5,722,349 relates to an ergonomic hand pet washing system consisting of one or two gloves that are worn by the user. The glove or gloves are connected by a resilient hose to a supply of pressurized water. Conduits on the palm side of the gloves split the flow into four streams discharging at the base of the fingers. Means are provided to introduce shampoo into the water stream at a valve assembly upstream of the gloves. A uniform distribution of rubber protrusions or nibs covers the palm and palm side of the glove fingers to aid in agitation of the liquid and massage of the animal.

Freulon, U.S. patent no. 4,779,572 describes an apparatus combining a fluid chamber, comb and brush in a common housing

hose connected to a vacuum device to wash, comb, and dry an animal in a single operation.

5 Newkirk et al., U.S. patent no. 5,768,709 describes a pet therapeutic glove with cutoff fingers and a thumb hole that can be used with or without a power-operated massager.

Lennon, U.S. patent no. 5,524,575 relates to an animal-grooming mitt with a rubber palm portion with nibs to facilitate removal of loose hair during grooming. The body of the mitt may be made of rigid material.

10 Courtney et al., U.S. patent no. 5,682,837 describes a pet glove with fingers or finger holes adaptable to use one or more resilient pads with bristles. In some embodiments, the bristle pads are removably attached to the palm side of the glove.

15 Dowdy, U.S. patent no. 4,083,327 relates to a hand-held motor-driven apparatus using a flexible toothed belt guided by two pulleys to remove animal hairs, massage and distribute natural oils on an animal such as a horse.

20 While these prior art devices solve some of the problems associated with pet grooming, they do not incorporate the unique combination of features of the present invention.

25 They do not provide a pet grooming mitt which includes a large reservoir for dispensing cleaning fluid, such as shampoo, in an area extending from the distal finger tip area to the wrist area of the user, while providing a bristle pattern that both grooms animal fur, while dislodging fur hair snags during washing.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the objects of the present invention are as follows:

5 It is an object of the present invention to provide a pet grooming mitt which includes a large reservoir for dispensing cleaning fluid, such as shampoo, from the whole hand area of a cleaning mitt, while also providing a bristle pattern with a series of densely located bristle groups extending axially through the work surface side of the glove, for dislodging animal fur hair snags during washing a pet animal.

10 It is also an object of this invention to provide a rubber mitt with built-in reservoir and discharge and massage features for efficient pet grooming.

15 It is a further object of this invention to provide a purposeful pattern of rubber nibs on the palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage.

It is another object of the present invention to permit the grooming mitten to be molded of rubber in a single cost-effective 20 operation.

It is yet another object of this invention to provide a rigid thumb section to provide stability to the mitten to permit more effective and rapid use.

It is also an object of this invention to permit easy 25 discharging of cleaning fluid over the entire surface of the palm side of the mitt.

It is also an object of this invention to improve over the disadvantages of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In keeping with these objects and others which may become apparent, the present invention includes a cleaning mitt for the grooming and washing of a pet, such as a cat or dog, which replaces the need for separate implements such as sponges, brushes, shampoo bottles and so forth. The cleaning mitt is 10 gentle during washing of a squirming animal.

The present invention is preferably a rubber mitt with a built-in flexible reservoir for cleaning fluids, such as shampoo. In a preferred embodiment, the reservoir extends all the way from the distal fingertip end to the wrist end of the mitt. A 15 plurality of valves are strategically placed throughout the palm side of the mitt to distribute a plurality of streams of fluid from the mitt.

In a preferred embodiment the mitt has a deliberately dense pattern of rubber nibs along the mid-line on the palm side of the 20 mitt to engage pet hairs, to loosen hair snags and remove loose hairs, and to massage the animal's fur coat.

Furthermore, the grooming mitten is preferably molded of a strong, flexible material, such as rubber.

Optionally, a rigid thumb section has a longitudinally 25 extending thick section to add structural stability to the mitt during use, so that it can be guided along the backs and other

fur surfaces of a pet animal being cleaned. This rigid thumb section enables a user to gently glide the mitt over the animal, while easily discharging cleaning fluid from the entire surface of the palm side of the mitt.

5 The mitt has a selected pattern of flexible nibs, such as rubber nibs or bristles, protruding from the palm side of the mitt. The reservoir includes a reservoir filling port with an integrally molded stopper, and an optional hanging tab with a hole for drying mitt after wet use.

10 For example, there is a plurality of circular nib patterns, such as four, including a central nib with two concentric circles of nibs. These circular patterns are especially effective at massage and for removing loose hairs when a circular scrubbing motion is used. These denser patterns of nibs generally extend axially along a mid-line of the glove extending from the closed 15 distal fingertip end to the open wrist end of the mitt.

The high density of nibs in these regions provides a substantial force, which can be exerted against the fur and hide of the animal without collapsing the nibs from their 20 perpendicular direction of use, even though they are fabricated of the same soft rubber material of the rest of mitt.

To effectively discharge shampoo over the entire mitt area, the fluid reservoir extends over the entire palm and finger portions of the mitt. Discharge of the shampoo is through 25 openable valves, such as crossed knife slits, which are distributed over the cleaning palm side surface of the mitt.

These slit openings are the fluid discharge openings, which normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat.

When, however, the mitt is flexed so that the nib bearing 5 cleaning side assumes a concave configuration, an internal pressure builds up, and the crossed knife slits constrict in length, so that their respective edges bow out and open for discharge of fluid, such as shampoo, therethrough.

In the rigid thumb embodiment, the thumb portion has a 10 thumbhole, which is surrounded by rubber, which is substantially thicker at the top. This thickness of the thumb portion helps make the mitten more rigid, with less tendency to collapse during use, while the palm section can still be flexed to conform to the animal's contours.

In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the thumb is no 15 longer reinforced or rigidized by a thick top section, for use in cleaning smaller animals where more flexibility is needed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The present invention can best be understood in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the mitt of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the palm side thereof;

25 Fig. 3 is a side elevation view of the mitt of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view of the mitt showing a hand cavity, thumb hole, and fluid reservoir;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the mitt shown discharging cleaning fluid therefrom; and,

5 Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view of an alternate embodiment of

the mitt; and,

Fig. 7 is an alternate embodiment for a brush version of the present invention.

10

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The pet grooming mitt or mitten of this invention is shown in Figure 1. Preferably, it includes molded rubber mitt 1 with rubber nibs 2 protruding from the palm side with thumb section 3, an internal reservoir 11 having a reservoir filling port 5, integrally molded stopper 6, and hanging tab 7 with a hole. Hollow hand cavity 4 is shown under fluid reservoir 11.

Figure 2 shows a palm side view with reservoir port 5 open 20 and stopper 6 attached via strap 12. A plurality of nib patterns 9, such as four, preferably circular, include a central nib with two concentric circles of nibs. These nib patterns 9 are especially effective at massage, in loosening fur hair snags and in removing loose hairs, when a circular motion is applied with 25 mitt 1 to the animal's fur and hide.

The high density of nibs 2 in these circular regions of nib

patterns 9 insures that a substantial force can be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing the nibs 2 (such as rubber bristles) from their perpendicular direction even though they are fabricated of the same soft rubber material 5 of the rest of mitt 1.

It is further noted that preferably these patterns 9 of denser placed nibs 2 in circular patterns extend axially along a mid line of mitt 1, from closed distal end 1a to open wrist end 1b of mitt 1.

10 A similar design feature that compensates for the softness of the rubber used is rigid thumb 3, which is facilitated by thick section 8 shown in phantom lines. This can be seen in the side view of Figure 3 as well. Fluid reservoir 11 preferably extends over the entire palm area of mitt 1.

15 For fluid discharge, valves, such as several crossed knife slits 10, are distributed over the work surface of the palm side of mitt 1. These slits 10 are the fluid discharge openings, which normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat.

20 Figure 4 is a cross sectional view of mitt 1 at line A-A of Figure 2. Hand cavity 4 as well as fluid reservoir 11 can be clearly seen. Thumb section 3 appears detached because of the line of the cross section. Thumb hole 15 is surrounded by rubber which is substantially thicker at top 8 thereof, which helps make 25 mitt 1 more rigid with less tendency to collapse, while the palm section can still be flexed to conform to the animal's contours.

Figure 5 shows a perspective view of mitt 1 in use but spaced momentarily away from the animal's surface 20 to view the pattern of fluid drips 22 from discharge slits 10 as the palm section of mitt 1 is flexed downward in a concave pattern, 5 thereby distorting discharge slits 10 and pressurizing reservoir 11. Figure 5 also shows stopper 6 in a sealing position and that the user's arm 21 is also shown.

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view similar to Figure 4 but of an alternate embodiment of the present invention for a mitt 101 having hand portion 104, reservoir 111 and nibs 102 whereby thumb section 130 with thumb cavity 115 is no longer reinforced or "rigidized" by a thick top section. This construction may be of some advantage for smaller animals where more flexibility is desired or for gloves molded of more rigid grades of rubber (or 15 of a thermoplastic elastomer) that may be more rigid in general. In this embodiment, top 125 of thumb section 130 of mitt 101 is no longer co-planar with top 126 of the palm section of mitt 101.

Figure 7 shows an alternate embodiment for a flexible brush 201 having a rear side 201a co-extensive with a front palm side 20 cleaning work surface 201b. Brush 201 is a flexible body having one or more straps 240 for engaging the hand of a user 221 therein on rear side 201a of brush 201. Built-in fluid reservoir 211 extends within brush 201, and is capped by stopper 206 attached by strap 212 to brush 201. Fluid drops 222 are 25 discharged from slits 210 to animal 220, when internal pressure builds up in reservoir 211 upon concave flexing of brush 201.

Preferably bristle nibs 202 are arranged in denser concentric patterns 209 along an axially extending mid-line portion of brush 201.

It is further noted that other modifications may be made to 5 the present invention without departing from the scope as noted in the appended claims. For example, the cleaning mitt can be made with the unique, glove-length extending reservoir but with a conventional pattern of bristle nibs. Furthermore, the mitt can alternatively be made with a conventional, smaller fluid reservoir, but with the unique denser pattern of bristle nibs 10 extending preferably in concentric patterns along a mid-line of the cleaning surface side of the mitt.

I CLAIM:

1. A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal such as a dog, said mitt having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface, said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having an open end for insertion of a hand therethrough and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom;

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging

10 fluid from, said reservoir extending within said mitt from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said mitt, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said mitt;

15 said mitt having a predetermined denser pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said mitt and

20 said dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said mitt.

2. The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

3. The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm 5 side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said mitt building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

4. The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having 10 a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said mitt is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted 15 against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said mitt.

5. The mitt as in Claim 1 further comprising a rigid thumb 20 wall section providing stability to the mitt during movement thereof along the fur hide of the pet animal.

6. The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded 25 stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

7. The mitt as in Claim 5 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

8. The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said mitt is molded of 5 rubber.

9. A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal such as a dog, said mitt having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface, said mitt comprising:

10 a hollow flexible body having an open end for insertion of a hand therethrough and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom;

15 a built-in fluid-retaining reservoir for discharging fluid therefrom, efficient pet grooming, said reservoir extending within said mitt from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said mitt, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said mitt;

20 said mitt having a predetermined pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs.

10. The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said 25 cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

11. The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said 5 flexing of said building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

12. The mitt as in Claim 9 further comprising a rigid thumb wall section providing stability to the mitt during movement thereof along the fur hide of the pet animal.

13. The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

14. The mitt as in Claim 13 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

15. The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt is molded of 20 rubber.

16. A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal such as a dog, said mitt having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning surface, said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having an open end for insertion
5 of a hand therethrough and a separate hollow thumb portion
extending therefrom;

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging
fluid therefrom, said reservoir extending within said mitt, said
reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon
10 flexing of said palm side of said mitt;

10 said mitt having a predetermined denser pattern of
flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove
loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern
of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end
15 to said proximal wrist end of said mitt; and,

15 said dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a
mid-line of said mitt.

17. The mitt as in Claim 16 wherein said plurality of
20 discharge ports extends through said palm side of said mitt,
said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work
surface of said palm side of said mitt.

18. The mitt as in Claim 16 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said 5 flexing of said mitt building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

19. The mitt as in Claim 16 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having 10 a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said mitt is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from 15 a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said mitt.

20. The mitt as in Claim 15 further comprising a rigid thumb wall section providing stability to the mitt during 20 movement thereof along the fur hide of the pet animal.

21. The mitt as in Claim 15 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

22. The mitt as in Claim 20 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

23. The mitt as in Claim 15 wherein said mitt is molded of 5 rubber.

24. A grooming and washing brush for a pet animal such as a dog, said brush having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface, said brush comprising:

10 a flexible body having at least one strap for insertion of a hand therein;

15 a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid from, said reservoir extending within said brush from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said brush;

20 said brush having a predetermined denser pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said brush and

said dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said brush.

25. The brush as in Claim 24 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said brush is flexed in a concave configuration, said 5 flexing of said brush building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

26. The brush as in Claim 24 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib 10 patterns having a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said brush is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing 15 said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said brush.

27. The brush as in Claim 1 wherein said brush further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded 20 stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

28. A grooming and washing brush for a pet animal such as a dog, said brush having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface, said brush comprising:

5 a flexible body having at least one strap for insertion of a hand therein;

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid from, said reservoir extending within said brush from a distal fingertip end to a proximal wrist end, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of

10 said palm side of said brush;

said brush having a predetermined pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage.

15 29. The brush as in Claim 28 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said brush is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said brush building up internal pressure within said 20 reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

30. The brush as in Claim 28 wherein said brush further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

31. A grooming and washing brush for a pet animal such as a dog, said brush having a rear side co-extensive with a front palm side cleaning work surface, said brush comprising:

5 a flexible body having at least one strap for insertion of a hand therein;

a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid from, said reservoir extending within said brush, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said palm side of said brush;

10 said brush having a predetermined denser pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide effective massage, said dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said brush, and

15 said dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said brush.

32. The brush as in Claim 31 wherein said fluid discharge ports normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said brush is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said brush building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

33. The brush as in Claim 31 wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags 5 and loose hairs when a circular motion of said brush is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said brush.

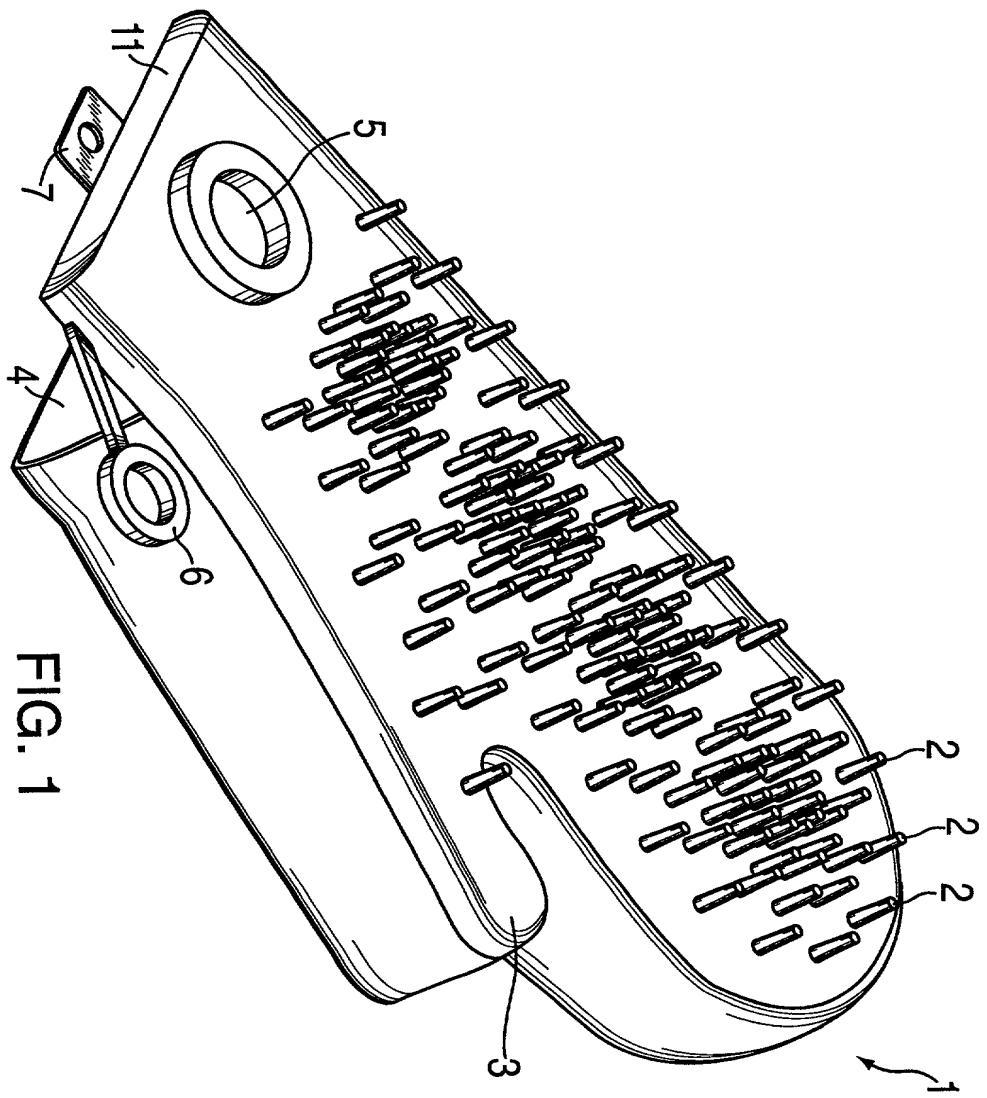
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34. The brush as in Claim 31 wherein said brush further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

15

ABSTRACT

5 A mitt grooms and washes a pet such as a dog or cat. The
rubber mitt has a built-in reservoir, with discharge ports and
massage nibs for efficient pet grooming. Purposeful patterns of
densely placed rubber nibs along the longitudinally extending
medial area of the palm side engage pet hairs, remove snags and
loose hairs, and provide effective massage. The grooming mitt is
10 molded of rubber, and includes a rigid thumb section which
provides stability to the mitt, to permit more effective, rapid
use and easy discharging of cleaning fluid from the entire
surface of the palm side of the mitt.



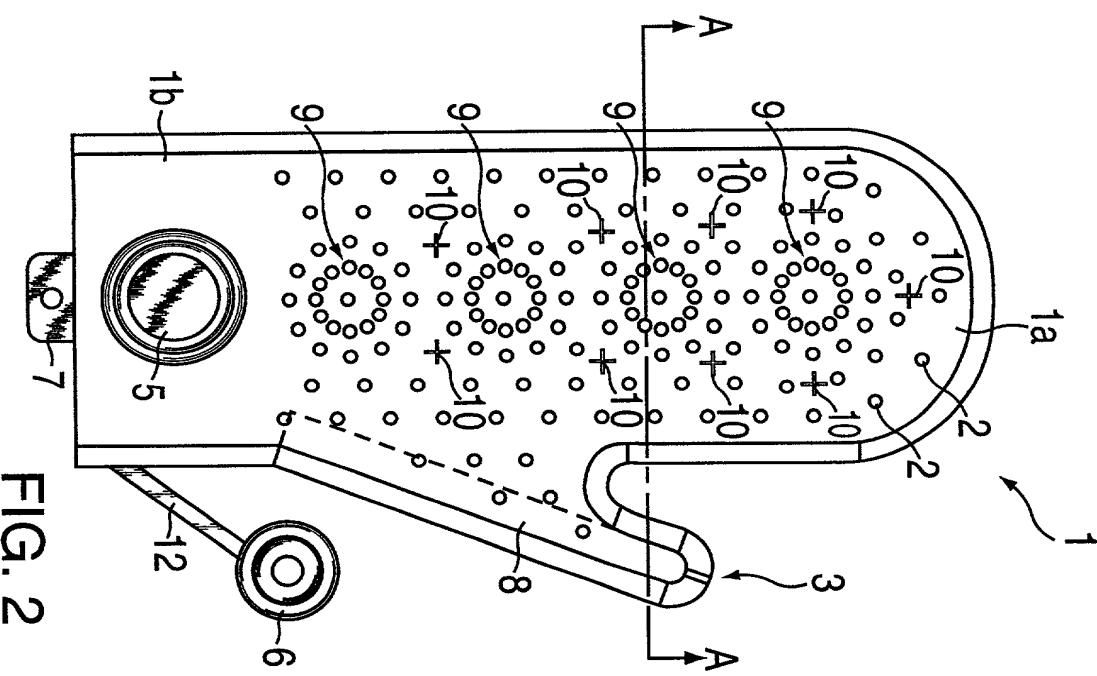


FIG. 2

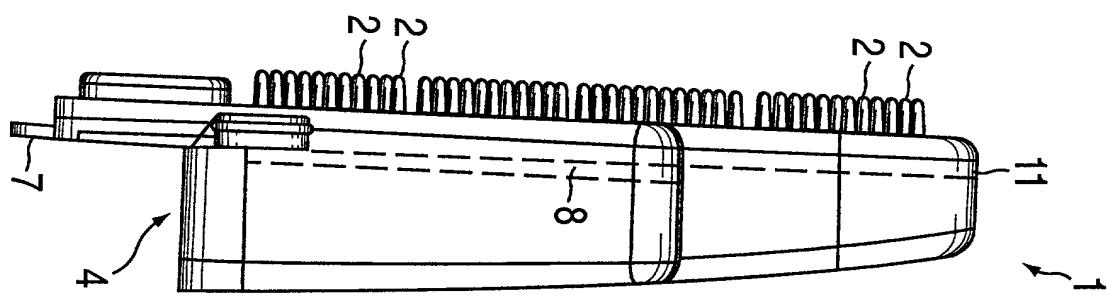


FIG. 3

FIG. 6

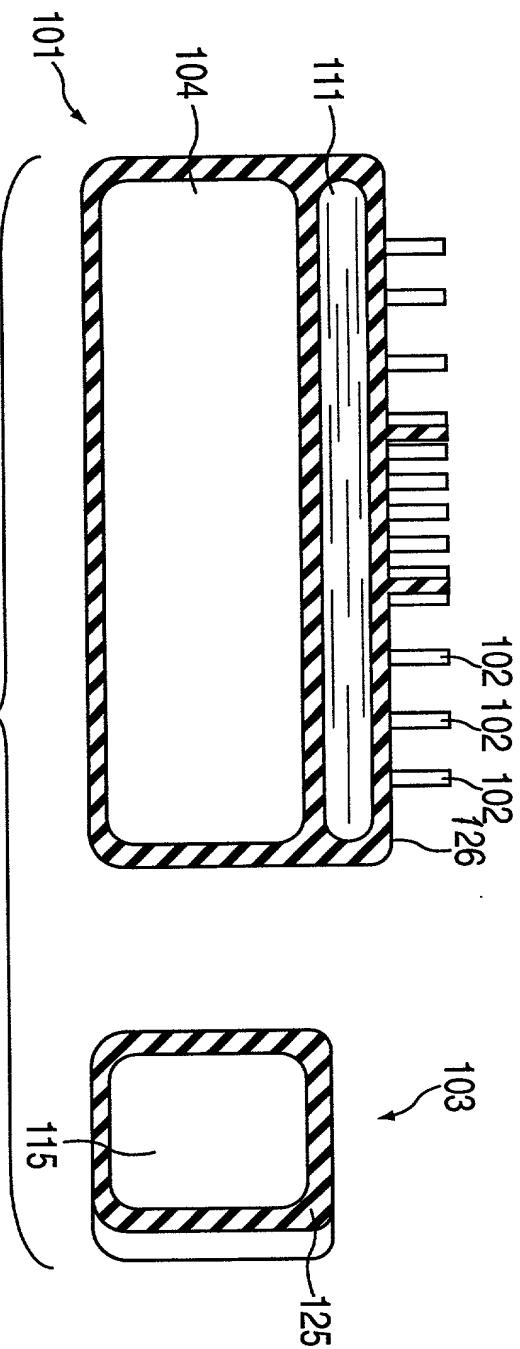
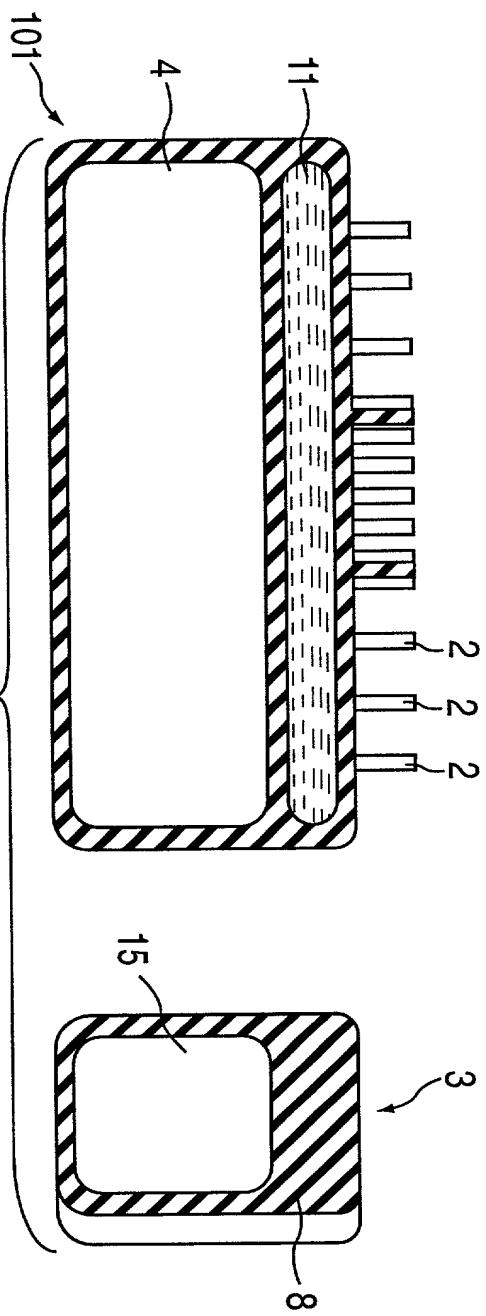


FIG. 4



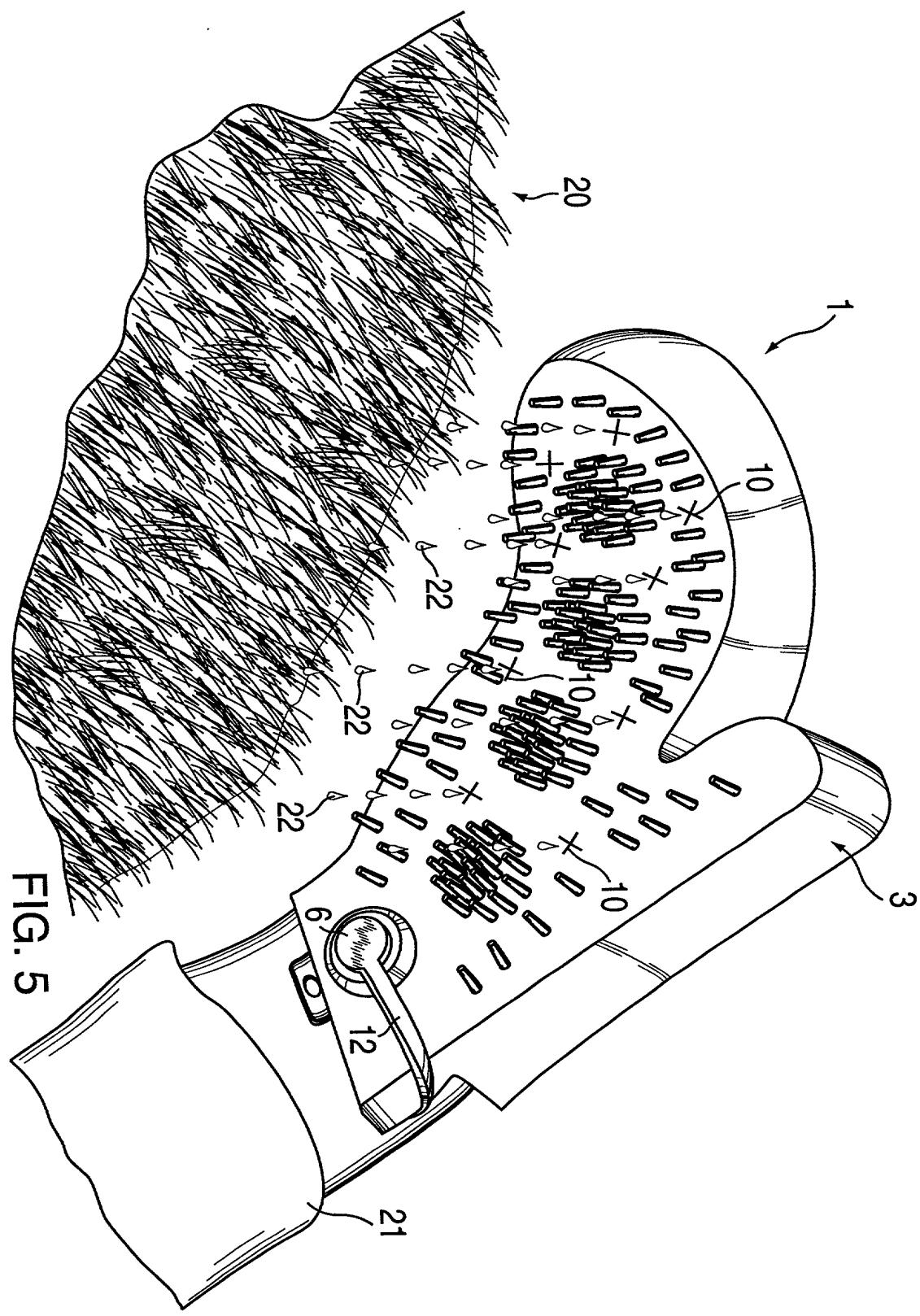


FIG. 5

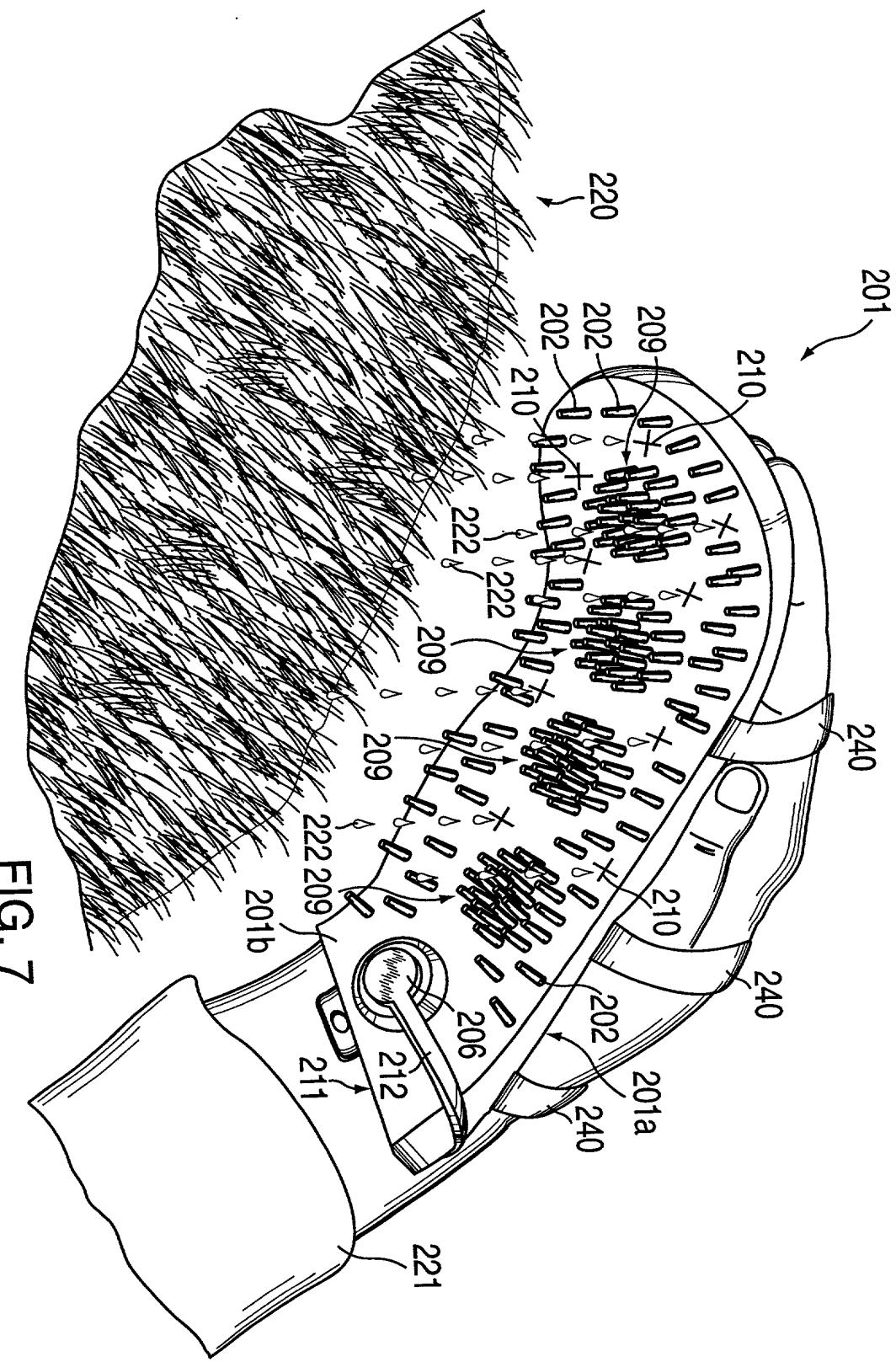


FIG. 7

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August 29, 2000

Commissioner of Patents
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Re: New Patent Application

APPLICANT: Kendrick Rampersad
FOR: PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR AND
MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE PATTERNS

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find:

Continuation Utility patent application, including
specification, claims, abstract, drawings (5-sheets)
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Fee transmittal form
Copy of Declaration
Copy of Small Entity Statement
Preliminary Amendment with Formal Drawings
Check in the amount of \$345.00
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Please acknowledge receipt by returning the enclosed
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Alfred M. Walker

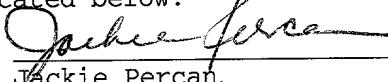
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Date: August 29, 2000

Pat trans utility appl



Jackie Percan

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled PET GROOMING MITT WITH RESERVOIR AND MEDIAL CONCENTRIC BRISTLE PATTERNS, the specification of which is attached hereto.

COPY

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. d1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed) (Yes) (No)

NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Sec.112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status-Patented, Pend, Aban)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint as my attorney, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

ALFRED M. WALKER Reg. No. 29,983

Send correspondence to:

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DATE: January 20, 1999

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